

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

MICHAEL DANIEL, Individually,	:	
	:	
Plaintiff,	:	
	:	
v.	:	Case No.
	:	
HUDSONS HICKORY HOUSE, LLC	:	
A Limited Liability Company	:	
	:	
Defendant.	:	
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COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, Michael Daniel (hereinafter “Plaintiff”), hereby sues the Defendant, Hudson’s Hickory House, LLC, a Domestic Limited Liability Company (hereinafter “Defendant”), for Injunctive Relief, and attorney’s fees, litigation expenses, costs and damages pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §12181 et seq. (“ADA”). In support thereof, Plaintiff states:

1. This action is brought by Michael Daniel, pursuant to the enforcement provision of the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 (“ADA”), 42 U.S.C. 12188(a) against the owners and/or operators of Hudson’s Hickory House restaurant.
2. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to the following statutes:

a. 28 U.S.C. §1331, which governs actions that arise from the Defendant's violations of Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §12181 et seq. See also 28 U.S.C. §2201 and §2202.

b. 28 U.S.C. §1331, which gives District Courts original jurisdiction over civil actions arising under the Constitution, laws or treaties of the United States; and

c. 28 U.S.C. §1343 (3) and (4), which gives District Courts jurisdiction over actions to secure civil rights extended by the United States government.

4. Venue is proper in this judicial district and division. Defendant does business in the State of Georgia, and all of the acts of discrimination alleged herein occurred in this judicial district and division.

PARTIES

5. Plaintiff Michael Daniel is a resident of Carrollton, Georgia, is confined to a wheelchair, and is an individual with a disability within the meaning of ADA, 42 U.S.C. 12102(2), 28 C.F.R. 36.104.

6. Plaintiff Michael Daniel is substantially limited in performing one or more major life activities, including but not limited to, walking.

7. Plaintiff Michael Daniel resides close to the property in question and frequently visits such property.

8. Plaintiff Michael Daniel is a frequent patron at Hudson's Hickory House at 12515 Veterans Highway, Douglasville, GA.

9. Hudson's Hickory House restaurant is a place of public accommodation within the meaning of Title III of the ADA, 42 U.S.C. 12181, 28 C.F.R. 36.104.

10. Defendant owns, leases, leases to, or operates Hudson's Hickory House restaurant, and is responsible for complying with the obligations of the ADA.

COUNT I

VIOLATION OF THE ADA

11. Plaintiff realleges paragraphs one (1) through ten (10) of this Complaint and incorporates them here as if set forth in full.

12. Plaintiff was a patron at Hudson's Hickory House restaurant in November 8, 2022.

13. Plaintiff has been back to the property in July and has definite plans to return the property again in May 2023, to avail himself of the goods and services offered to the public at the property but for the barriers in existence that deter him from doing so.

14. There are numerous architectural barriers present at Hudson's Hickory House restaurant that prevent and/or restrict access by Plaintiff, in that several features, elements, and spaces of Hudson's Hickory House restaurant are not accessible to or usable by Plaintiff, as specified in 28 C.F.R 36.406 and the Standards for Accessible Design, 28 C.F.R., Pt. 36, Appendix A ('the Standards').

15. Plaintiff, upon visiting the property, personally suffered discrimination because of his disability.

16. There are several elements and spaces that Plaintiff personally encountered and which discriminated against him based upon his disability, such as:

a. The parking area is in complete disrepair and creates a dangerous condition for an individual in a wheelchair.

b. There are designated accessible parking spaces that have no access aisles for an individual in a wheelchair to utilize.

c. There is no accessible route from the parking area to the entrance for a disabled individual to utilize.

d. There is an excessively high threshold at the door that is not ramped and creates a dangerous condition for an individual in a wheelchair.

e. The men's and women's restroom have the following violations:

- The flush control is located on the narrow side of the toilet so that a disabled individual must reach across their own bodily wastes in order to utilize.

- There an incorrect handle on the door stall which makes it inaccessible to a disabled individual.

- There is insufficient clear floor space for a disabled individual in a wheelchair to utilize.

- There are items that are located out of reach to a disabled individual in a wheelchair.

- There is a policy by defendant that allows a trashcan to block the clear floor space of the restroom.

- There are a lack of grab bars for a disabled individual to utilize.

- There is a lack of underside clearance at the sink for a disabled individual in a wheelchair to utilize.

f. There is no lowered section at the dining counter for an individual in a wheelchair to utilize.

17. The discriminatory violations described in paragraph 16 of this Complaint are not an exclusive list of the Defendants' ADA violations. The Plaintiff has been denied access to, and has been denied the benefits of, services, programs and activities of the Defendant's buildings and facilities, and have otherwise been

discriminated against and damaged by the Defendants because of the Defendant's ADA violations, as set forth above.

18. The Plaintiff will continue to suffer such discrimination, injury and damage without the immediate relief provided by the ADA as requested herein. The Plaintiff has been denied access to, and has been denied the benefits of services, programs and activities of the Defendant's buildings and its facilities, the opportunity to use such elements, and have otherwise been discriminated against and damaged by the Defendants because of the Defendant's ADA violations, as set forth above.

19. Plaintiff has standing to sue for every barrier to access for the mobility-impaired that exists on the subject premises. Michael Daniel has standing to require that all barriers to access on the property for the mobility-impaired are corrected, not merely only those Michael Daniel personally encountered.

20. Defendants' failure to remove the architectural barriers identified in paragraph sixteen (16) constitutes a pattern or practice of discrimination within the meaning of 42 U.S.C. 12188 (b)(1)(B)(i) and 28 C.F.R. 36.503 (a).

21. It would be readily achievable for the Defendant to remove the architectural barriers identified above.

22. Defendant is required to remove the existing architectural barriers to the physically disabled when such removal is readily achievable for its place of public accommodation that have existed prior to January 26, 1992, 28 CFR 36.304(a); in the alternative, if there has been an alteration to Defendant's place of public accommodation since January 26, 1992, then the Defendant is required to ensure to the maximum extent feasible, that the altered portions of the facility are readily accessible to and useable by individuals with disabilities , 28 CFR 36.402; and finally, if the Defendant's facility is one which was designed and constructed for first occupancy subsequent to January 26, 1993, as defined in 28 CFR 36.401, then the Defendant's facility must be readily accessible to and useable by individuals with disabilities as defined by the ADA.

23. The Defendant has discriminated against Plaintiff by denying him access to, and full and equal enjoyment of, the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages and/or accommodations of the buildings, as prohibited by 42 U.S.C. § 12182 et seq. and 28 CFR 36.302 et seq

24. Defendant continues to discriminate against the Plaintiff by failing to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices or procedures, when such modifications are necessary to afford all offered goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages or accommodations to individuals with disabilities.

25. Michael Daniel has a realistic, credible, existing and continuing threat of discrimination from the Defendants' non-compliance with the ADA with respect to this property as described, but not necessarily limited to, the allegations in paragraph 15 of this Complaint. Plaintiff has reasonable grounds to believe that he will continue to be subjected to discrimination in violations of the ADA by the Defendants.

26. Plaintiff is aware that it will be a futile gesture to re-visit the property until it becomes compliant with the ADA.

27. Plaintiff is without an adequate remedy at law and is suffering irreparable harm. Plaintiff has retained the undersigned counsel and is entitled to recover attorney's fees, costs and litigation expenses from the Defendant pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12205 and 28 CFR 36.505.

28. Notice to Defendant is not required as a result of the Defendant's failure to cure the violations by January 26, 1992 (or January 26, 1993, if Defendant has 10 or fewer employees and gross receipts of \$500,000 or less). All other conditions precedent have been met by Plaintiffs or waived by the Defendant.

29. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12188, this Court is provided with authority to grant Plaintiff Injunctive Relief, including an order to require the Defendant to make the property readily accessible and useable to the Plaintiff and all other persons with

disabilities as defined by the ADA; or by closing the facility until such time as the Defendant cures its violations of the ADA.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court:

A. Declare that Defendant has violated title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12181 et seq, 28 C.F.R. pt. 36.

i. by failing to bring Hudson's Hickory House restaurant into compliance with the Standards where it is readily achievable to do so; and

ii. by failing to take other readily achievable measures to remove architectural barriers to access when it is not readily achievable to comply fully with the Standards.

B. Order Defendant:

i. to make all readily achievable alterations to the facility; or to make such facility readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities to the extent required by the ADA;

ii. to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices or procedures, when such modifications are necessary to afford all offered goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages or accommodations to individuals with disabilities.

C. Award attorney's fees, costs and litigation expenses pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12205.

E. Order such other appropriate relief as the interests of justice may require.

Respectfully Submitted,

By: /s/ Pete M. Monismith

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Font Certification

I certify that I prepared this document in 14 point Times New Roman font and complied with the margin and type requirements of this Court.

/s/ Pete Monismith

Pete Monismith